



WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
REPORT. 1964.

WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Withnell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year ended 31st. December 1964.

The population of the District at mid-June 1964 was 2,800 according to the Registrar General's estimate, which is 50 fewer than the figure for the previous year, which would hardly seem to be a realistic estimate in view of the natural increase of population and new property being erected.

The number of live births assigned to the District during 1964 was 45 or 10 more than in the previous year which gives a birth rate of 16.1 (adjusted 19.3) per 1,000 population. The Birth Rate for England and Wales and the County of Lancaster were 18.4 and 18.68 (adjusted 19.05) respectively.

The number of deaths at 28 was 12 fewer than in the previous year giving an actual death rate of 10.0 (adjusted 8.3) per 1,000 population. The death rates for England and Wales and Lancashire were 11.3 and 12.09 adjusted 13.18) respectively.

The Registrar General has again provided a table giving the causes of death in age groups and this table is reproduced in the Report. From this table it will be seen that there was only one death under the age of 45 years, and that 20 of the 28 deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age, of whom 12 were in fact 75 years and over. Comparing the number of deaths with those of the previous year the number of deaths from malignant disease was 4 as against 7 in the previous year. Coronary heart disease accounted for 7 deaths which is 2 fewer and Vascular lesions of the nervous system, 8 which is the same as in 1963. There were no deaths attributable to tuberculosis, nor were there any from this cause in the previous year, and again there were no deaths arising from childbirth.

It is also pleasing to note that for the second successive year there were no deaths of infants under one year of age.

In brief I consider that the vital statistics for the District this year are very satisfactory.

Only one case of infectious disease was notified during the year - a meningococcal infection.

In spite of the fact that no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria were notified during the year it is still of vital importance that protection against these diseases should be kept at the highest possible level. This has been amply borne out by the recent outbreak of poliomyelitis at nearby Blackburn.

Two aspects of environmental hygiene continued to receive particular attention during the year, namely the water supply and sewage disposal. An important development in regard to the water supply has been the sinking of a bore-hole, whilst in regard to sewage disposal consideration is being given to a comprehensive scheme for the District.

Housing conditions in the District are gradually improving as a result of the introduction of internal water closets and bathrooms, and a considerable amount of housing development is taking place although only 7 new properties were actually completed during the year under consideration. It is considered that provision of special housing accommodation for the elderly would be a valuable asset to the District.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members for the kindly consideration afforded to Dr. Doherty and myself at all times. My thanks are also due to Mr. Grimes, Clerk of the Council and to Mr. Carr, Public Health Inspector and Surveyor and the Council Staff for their willing co-operation at all times.

I remain,

Your obedient servant

J. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30288162>

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

SECTION A.

The area of the District is 4,190 acres. The population figure at the 1961 Census was, 2849. For 1964 the Registrar General calculated the population as 2,800 The Rateable Value was £79,504 and a penny rate produced £315.

The Chief industries are Paper Making, Quarrying, Saw Mills and Cotton Weaving. There has been no change in social conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. <u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>			
Legitimate.	23	21	44
Illegitimate.	NIL	1	1
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population.			
Crude. 16.1			
Adjusted. 19.8 (England & Wales 18.4)			
2. <u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>			
Legitimate.	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births.	NIL	(England & Wales 0.31)	
Total Live & Still Births.			45
3. <u>INFANT DEATHS.</u>			
Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
4. <u>INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.</u>		NIL (England & Wales 20.0)	
5. <u>NEO NATAL MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.</u>		NIL (England & Wales 13.8)	
6. <u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS</u>		NIL	
7. <u>MATERNAL DEATHS.</u> (including abortion)		NIL	
8. <u>MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS.</u>		NIL (England & Wales 0.25)	

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. <u>ALL CAUSES.</u>	17	11	28
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Crude 10	Adjusted. 8.3	
2. <u>RESPIRATORY T.B.</u>	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 estimate population	NIL		
3. <u>MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.</u>	3	1	4
Rate per estimated 1,000 population.	1.43		

COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

BIRTHS 1.23
DEATHS 0.83

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS.

CRUDE RATE.

YEAR.	Live Births.		Deaths all causes.		Still-births.		Maternal Mortality.		Infant total under 1 year.		Mortality Neo-Natal under 4 weeks.	
	No. Registered.	Rate per 1,000 population.	No. Registered.	Rate per 1,000 population.	No. Registered.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No Registered.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. Registered.	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. Registered.	Rate per 1,000 live births
1964	45	16.1	28	10.0	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1963	35	12.3	40	14.0	1	27.8	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1962	38	13.4	36	12.7	3	73.2	NIL	NIL	1	26.3	NIL	NIL
1961	47	16.5	41	14.4	1	20.8	NIL	NIL	1	21.3	NIL	NIL
1960	38	13.7	41	14.8	3	73.2	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1959	44	15.8	50	17.9	2	43.5	NIL	NIL	4	90.90	2	45.50

ADJUSTED Live Birth Rate (comparability factor 1.23) 19.8 per 1,000 est.pop.

ADJUSTED Death Rate (comparability factor 0.83) 8.3 per 1,000 est.pop

ENGLAND & WALES.

Live Birth Rate 18.4 per 1,000 home population

Death Rate 11.3 per 1,000 home population.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1964.

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH.</u>	Sex.	Total All Ages.	Birth- 45 yrs.	45 years	55 years	65 years	75 years and over.
11. MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, LUNG, BRONCHUS.	M	1	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, BREAST.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
14. OTHER MALIGNANT AND LYMPHATIC NEOPLASMS	M	2	-	-	1	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. DIABETES	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-
17. VASCULAR LESIONS OF NERVOUS SYSTEM.	M	4	-	-	-	1	3
	F	4	-	-	1	2	1
18. CORONARY DISEASE. ANGINA.	M	5	-	1	2	1	1
	F	2	-	-	1	1	-
20. OTHER HEART DISEASE.	M	1	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
23. PNEUMONIA	M	4	-	-	-	1	3
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
22. OTHER DEFINED & ILL-DEFINED DISEASES.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES.</u>	M	17	-	1	4	5	7
	F	11	1	-	2	3	5

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health. - Dr. J. Walker, M.B., C.H.B., L.D.S., D.P.H., D.P.D.

Other Public Appointments.

M.O.H.	Chorley Borough.
M.O.H.	Leyland U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Longridge U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Preston R.D.C.
M.O.H.	Chorley R.D.C.
M.O.H.	Adlington U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Fulwood U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Walton-le-Dale U.D.C.

Divisional Medical Officer to the Health Division No.4.
Lancashire County Council.

HEALTH INSPECTOR. Cecil Hilary Carr.
A Part Time Officer holding the appointment as Surveyor.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Public Health Laboratory Preston, is available for the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases of infectious disease and for pathological specimens for ordinary disease.
Similar use of this laboratory is made for the bacteriological examination of samples of milk, water and ice-cream, etc.

CHEST CLINIC.

The Chest Clinic is at 34, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley.
This clinic is a consultant clinic for all Chest conditions.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.

Held at Preston Royal Infirmary, Blackburn Royal Infirmary, and the Diagnostic Clinic, Civic Centre, Bolton, and the Wigan Royal Infirmary.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

Chorley & District Hospital.
Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.
Preston Royal Infirmary.
Blackburn Royal Infirmary
Sharoe Green Hospital, Preston.
Isolation Hospital, Deepdale, Preston.
Health Charnock Hospital.
All administered by the appropriate Hospital Management Committees under the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

COUNTY HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

These services are administered by the Lancashire County Council

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The County Ambulance Service is radio-controlled and all non-urgent requests for the service are made to Radio Control Headquarters. (tel. Broughton 2679) The nearest ambulance station is in Preston Street, Chorley.

MIDWIFERY AND NURSING IN THE HOME.

There was no resident district nurse or midwife practising in the district. A service has however, been maintained from without the district and every effort is being made to recruit a nurse for this district.

TREATMENT CLINIC FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN.

The 'Minor Ailment' clinic is held at Collison Avenue, Chorley. Ancillary School Clinics (Orthopaedic Dental and Eye etc.) are held at Chorley and attended by Practitioners of Specialist Status. Attendance by appointment via School Medical Staff.

Ante Natal Clinics and Post Natal Clinics.

These Clinics are held on Thursdays at (10.a.m.) at Collison Avenue Chorley. They are attended by a Consultant obstetrician.

Maternity Beds

Normal accommodation is available at Chorley District Hospital and Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley. Other Hospitals are also available.

Child Welfare.

A child welfare clinic is held fortnightly (Tuesday 2-4 p.m.) at the Withnell Conservative Club, and is attended fortnightly by a Medical Officer of the Lancashire County Council, as well as the County Health Visitor. Ministry of Health Welfare Foods and other proprietary baby foods may be obtained from this clinic.

Health Visitors.

The County's Health Visitor for the area is Nurse Lamb who is available to give advice on all the County Health and Welfare Services.

Home Helps.

A Home Help Service in cases of sickness, Maternity and Old Age is available in the area. Application for Home Helps should be made to the Divisional Health Officer, 55, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston. (Telephone Preston 77263.)

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was

<u>Types of Tuberculosis.</u>	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958.
Respiratory	7	15	15	16	16	10	15
Non Respiratory	1	NIL	NIL	1	1	NIL	NIL

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Infectious Diseases were admitted to the Hospital at Deepdale when necessary.

Smallpox cases - there were none - would have been admitted to the Ainsworth Hospital at Bury.

Notifiable
Disease.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

Total
all
Ages.

Age Periods - Years.

	0 1-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 & over	Age un- known.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox.													
Scarlet Fever.													
Diphtheria													
Measles													
Whooping Cough.													
Acute Pnuemonia													
Erysipelas													
Gastro entritis													
Dysentery													
Puerperal Pyrexia													
Poliomyelitis													
Meningococcal- Infection						1							
Food Poisoning.													
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum													
TOTAL.						1							NIL

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are two Sewerage Works with settlement tanks and sprinklers, one at Brinscall, one at Withnell Fold, and one with settlement and contact beds only at Abbey Village. All of these works are unsatisfactory in various ways, by far the worst being Abbey Village. The whole sewerage scheme is being examined to determine the most economical and suitable comprehensive scheme for disposal throughout the district.

Closet Accomodation at the end of 1964.

Privy Piddens	None
Pail Closets	29
Dry Ashpits	1
Moveable Ashbins	936
Waste Water Closets	17
Fresh Water Closets	1015
Houses on Water Carriage System.	859

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house refuse was carried out weekly by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry and disposed of by controlled tipping at Ollerton Fold.

Sanitary Inspection.

The number of inspections for nuisances and for defects during the year was 473 and 137 found to be defective; 17 informal notices were served, there were no legal proceedings. 125 defects were abated at the year end.

VERMIN

No infestations of insects were found, although the old houses of all the new tenants of Council houses were inspected. Tenants who are apt to become lethargic are visited regularly and encouraged to keep their houses clean & tidy.

One of the sewerage attendants acts part-time as pest officer. His work is summarised as follows.

	Houses.	Farms.	Other premises.
Inspections.	12	2	7
Rat infestations found & treated.	12	2	3
Sewers.	5 Block treatments of all manholes throughout the district		

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat and Other Foods.

7 Shops are registered as selling meat. Meat is brought direct as there is no private slaughterhouse in the district. Tinned meat, fruit and vegetables were inspected and in cases where necessary, were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation. No statutory action was necessary. All food premises were inspected.

CONDEMNED FOODS.

	lbs. ozs.
Extract of Malt.	5. 0.
Tinned Peas.	4. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Pears	2. 13.
" Peaches	1. 13.
" Fruit Salad.	4. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Tongue	6.
" Luncheon Meat	5.
" Tomatoes.	15.
Dutch Cheese.	1. 8.

Ice Cream.

All ice cream sold is pre-packed. No samples of ice cream were taken for analysis under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulation. Visits were paid to the 21 shops registered for selling ice cream.

Water Supply.

The supply is obtained for the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Undertaking from Withnell Reservoir (upland surface water.)

887 Dwelling houses and an estimated population of 2,759 persons are supplied with this water.

22 Bacteriological examinations of water were carried out during the year of which 17 were satisfactory and 5 were unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory reports were followed up and were found to be due to fluctuation in chlorination due to heavy rains and minor defects in the chlorinator.

The high acidity of the water gives rise to plumbe solvency of quite a high degree and a metering pump and ancillary equipment has been installed in order to adjust the Ph level of the water which is approximately 6, to a more favourable level. This plant has now been operating for over 12 months and the Ph level is much improved. Supplies available are only marginally above demand and in an effort to improve the supply a borehole has been sunk at the rear of Railway Road pumphouse and test pumping indicates a constant supply of just over 4,000 g.p.d. Analysis of this water indicates that it is slightly alkaline and bacteriologically sterile with very few suspended solids. It is very palatable and will only require marginal chlorination to obviate any possible risks. It is proposed to pump this water direct to service mains without filtration after chlorination only and it is anticipated that this will improve the quality of the water supply as a whole.

SCHOOLS.

The total number of schools in the district at the end of 1964 was 5.

Sanitary Conditions of schools at the end of the year:-

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| (a) Number of schools with unsatisfactory yard surface | NONE | | |
| (b) Sanitary accomodation Number of schools with | (1) Fresh water closets | 5 | |
| (2) Waste water closet only | NIL. | (3) Trough Closets | NIL |
| (4) Pail Closets only | NIL | (5) Privy Closets | NIL |
| (6) Other types. | NIL. | | |
| (c) Drainage - No. of schools with drainage to :- | | | |
| (1) Public Sewer | 5. | (2) Private Treatment Works | NIL |
| (d) Refuse Disposal - No. of Schools with:- | | | |
| (1) Dustbins | 5. | (2) Dry Ashpits. | NIL |
| (e) Water Supply - No. of Schools with:- | | | |
| (1) Public Mains | 5. | (2) Private Supply | NIL |
| No. of private supplies (e) (2) considered unsatisfactory NIL. | | | |
| (f) No. of schools where facilities are considered unsatisfactory for | | | |
| (1) washing. | NIL | (2) Drinking | NIL |

School Meals.

Dining facilities and washing facilities are improving gradually in the schools throughout the district.

HOUSING AND HOUSING CONDITIONS.

7 New properties were built at Dick Lane, Withnell Fold & Gerrards Fold. No Council houses were built during the year.

270 Inspections were made for housing defects. There are now 58 houses which are not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit. Several unfit houses have been improved by various amounts ranging from internal water closet to full bathrooms thus reducing the need for the provision of extra Council houses. The most urgent need at the moment being the provision of housing for the elderly.

There are still 4 occupied back-to-back houses, 2 obstructive buildings, 29 houses with pail closets and 17 houses with waste water closets in the district. Owners of houses with pail closets are being pressed to convert to a water bourne system.

There are no back-to-earth houses, underground rooms, common lodging houses or canal boats, used for human habitation. All houses have an internal water supply and separate closet accomodation.

There is very little overcrowding in houses, except where married sons and daughters cannot find homes of their own.

There are 5 private housing schemes in operation within the district and it is anticipated that some 60 or more homes will be completed in the coming year and it is hoped that this is only the beginning of development within the area.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 24 Mechanical Factories and 2 non-mechanical factories in the district. 36 Inspections were carried out and 2 contraventions noted regarding cleanliness and defective sanitary accomodation.

Swimming Baths & Pool.

The Council own the Brinscall Swimming Pool, which is 75' by 25'. 5 Slipper baths and 1 steam bath available. Separate water closets are provided for each sex. Bathers have to use the spray baths before entering the swimming pool. The water is drawn from the public main, heated by an oil fired boiler, circulated once in 6 hours through 3 pressure sand filters and treated with sodium carbonate and chlorine. Samples are taken twice daily to ensure that the water has been adequately chlorinated. 2 Bacteriological examinations were taken, both satisfactory. 1 Chemical analysis was taken and found to be satisfactory. Repairs were carried out to the boiler and pump.

The liberal use of Vanodine together with regular foot inspections have almost completely eradicated the outbreak of verrucae which was rife during last season. The heat trap at the baths installed last season improved the comfort of the users and has been very much appreciated.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Smallpox Vaccinations	18 Complete Vaccinations.
	4 Revaccinations.
Polio Vaccinations	34 Oral (Complete Vacc. 3 doses)
	48 Reinforcement of Oral Vaccinations.

Children Immunised against Diphtheria Only	NONE
" " " Diphtheria, W/Cough & Tetanus (Combined)	24
" " " Diphtheria & Tetanus (Combined)	7
" " " Diphtheria only	16 Reinforcements
" " " Dip.W/Cough & Tetanus(Combined)	12 "
" " " Dip. & Tetanus (Combined)	69 "

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act 1961.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Inspections. (3)	Number of Written notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
(1)Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.....	7	8	NIL	NIL
(2)Factories not included in (1)in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	14	23	NIL	NIL
(3)Other premises in which Section7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	5	NIL	NIL
TOTAL.	26	36	NIL	NIL

2 -- Cases in which DEFECTS WERE found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars. (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector. (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	NIL	NIL	NIL
Overcrowding (S.2)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	NIL	NIL			
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	NIL	NIL			
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	NIL	NIL			
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	NIL	NIL			
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	1	1	NIL	NIL	NIL
(c) Not separate for sexes.	NIL	NIL			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	NIL	NIL			
Total.	2	2	NIL	NIL	NIL

(b) Part VIII of the Act - Outwork : NIL.

